(b) if so, the status of the proposed legislation as of now; and

(c) the reasons, if the said legislation has not been enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The proposal for a central legislation for agricultural labour was initiated in 1975 on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Labour.

There was certain reservation expressed by some of the State Governments on some of the components of the draft legislation. As it is the endeavour of the Government to reach a consensus, a Conference of the State Labour Ministers was held on 18.1.2000 in New Delhi when views of the State Governments were obtained. The proposal is being re-examined on the basis of the views/comments of the State Government.

Exclusion of employees under "worker' category

4929. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove all employees earning a gross monthly salary of Rs. 10,000 and above from the definition of what is called a "worker' and to repeal the Abolition of Contract Labour Act, 1970;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what other changes in labour laws and industrial relations laws are contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and to the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 are made keeping in view the requirements of the social partners and a cautious and pragmatic approach is adopted to ensure that the amendments take into consideration the requirements of the social partners, as far as possible.